

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 271420Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4345

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S CONTACTS WITH GISCARD AND SCHMIDT

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0200 (NOTAL)

ON MARCH 27 MFA SECRETARY GENERAL WURTH TOLD DCM THAT TRAVEL PLANS REPORTED REFTEL HAVE CHANGED. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL BE COMING TO LUXEMBOURG ON MAY 14-15 FOR A WORKING VISIT. THORN WILL VISIT PARIS ON APRIL 3 AT GISCARD'S REQUEST. ALTHOUGH THORN WILL BE SEEING SAUVAGNARGUES IN PARIS FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EC MATTERS, THE MAIN REASON FOR THE VISIT IS GISCARD'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF RADIO-TELEVISION-LUXEMBOURG (RTL) WITH THORN. ACCORDING TO WURTH (PORTECT), GISCARD IS WORRIED THAT RTL, WHICH RECENTLY CAME UNDER THE CONTROL OF A GROUP HEADED BY THE BANQUE LAMBERT IN BELGIUM, MIGHT FEEL INCREASINGLY FREE TO CRITICIZE FRENCH GOVERNMENT POLICY. GISCARD HAS PUT RTL ON NOTICE THAT HE WILL NOT TOLERATE AN ANTI-GOF LINE COMING FROM A "FOREIGN" STATION WHICH HAS ITS MAIN RADIO STUDIOS IN PARIS AND REACHES HALF OF FRANCE'S RADIO LISTENERS. SINCE RTL IS JURIDICALLY A LUXEMBOURG COMPANY, AND THE GOL HAS THE LEGAL RIGHT TO REVIEW RTL PERSONNEL AND POLICY DECISIONS, GISCARD WILL ASK FOR THORN'S UNDERSTANDING

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AND SUPPORT. THEY ARE ALSO LIKELY TO AGREE ON THE NOMINATION

OF SEVERAL NEW TOP RTL DIRECTORS. WURTH ADDED THAT THORN
WOULD PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH MOST OF GISCARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING RTL, AS LONG AS THE GOL'S POSITION AS OVERSEER
OF THE STATION WAS CLEARLY RETAINED.FARKAS

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